



Media Advisory

PRESS OFFICE

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SBA Marks National Small Business Week April 12-13, 2006

National Small Business Person of the Year to be Named

American Spirit Award Winners Recognized

U.S. Small Business Administration events to honor ***National Small Business Week*** are scheduled for April 12-13, 2006. 53 State Small Business Persons of the Year from each state, including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Guam, as well as other special award winners will be recognized in Washington, D.C., at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center.

The two-day conference will focus on small business accomplishments, and showcase small businesses recovering from disasters. Four major award events will take place, culminating with the announcement of the ***National Small Business Person of the Year***.

The 2006 ***National Small Business Week*** special award honors include:

- ***National Small Business Person of the Year*** award to be presented from among the State Small Business Persons of the Year.
- ***American Spirit Awards*** to recognize the accomplishments of small businesses and small business volunteerism for disaster areas that were impacted by hurricane Katrina, Rita or Wilma.
- ***Phoenix Awards*** for small business disaster recovery and outstanding contributions to disaster recovery.
- ***Champion Awards*** honoring individuals and organizations dedicated to supporting small businesses.
- ***Federal Procurement Awards*** for achievements in government contracting.
- ***Lender Awards*** recognizing lenders that have used SBA loan programs to support the growth of small businesses.

Editor's note: A full schedule of events is listed below:

Prior to *National Small Business Week* events:

To schedule an interview with an SBA spokesperson regarding *National Small Business Week* 2006 or schedule an interview with a *National Small Business Week* 2006 award winner, contact Cecelia Taylor at (202) 401-3059 or Dennis Byrne at (202) 205-6567.

Please consider media coverage of Small Business Week 2006. You can pre-register online at <http://www.sba.gov/sbw/press.html>.

Small Business Week 2006 Events Schedule

Please Note: Seating is limited at all events and the events schedule is subject to change.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

- 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. **Procurement Awards Luncheon**
United States Chamber of Commerce, Hall of Flags
Speakers: Secretary Carlos Gutierrez, U.S. Department of Commerce
Tom Donohue, president, U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Emcee: Jim Blasingame, the Small Business Advocate
- 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. **Evening Reception honoring Lenders and Champion Award Winners**
United States Department of State, Ben Franklin Room

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

- 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **Phoenix Awards Breakfast honoring Disaster Recovery**
Ronald Reagan International Trade Center, Atrium Hall
Speaker: Elvin Hayes, founder, the Hayes Group
- 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. **State Small Business Awards Luncheon Honoring State Small Business Winners**
Ronald Reagan International Trade Center, Atrium Hall
Speakers: John E. Davies, vice president of Sales & Marketing Group, Intel Corp. (Davies is available to speak with media post-event)
Emcee: Dr. Randal Pinkett, President and CEO of BCT Partners and the Apprentice (Season Four Winner)

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Small Business Week 2006 is co-sponsored by the following organizations: Sam's Club, Intel, Microsoft, SCORE, Raytheon, the Kauffman Foundation, Nationwide, IBM, Verizon Communications, Johnson & Johnson, BAE Systems, KBR, Cisco Systems, Fiducial, Aetna, Administaff and Symantec.

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